Preparedness to operate from the New Terminal Deficiencies identified in the first trial run were rectified. Another trial run was conducted on 28-3-1989 when two flights were handled from the Terminal satisfactorily. The New Terminal has been opened to regular operations from 26-4-1989 pending formal commissioning.

(c) No such proposal is under consideration at present.

Hardships faced by Indian/Nepalese citizens

1868. SHRI ASHWANI KUMAR : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) what are the hardships which Indian citizens in Nepal and Nepalese citizens in India are facing due to non-renewal of Indo-Nepal treaties ; and

(b) what steps are being taken to have new treaties evolved at the earliest ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIR: (SHRI K. NATWAR SINGH) : (a) After the Indo-Nepal Treaties on Trade and Transit lapsed on March 23, 1989, the old pattern of preferential trade regime with Nepal too lapsed. So as not to impede the flow of trade, the Government of India immediately permitted normal export-import flows as provided under the GATT on MFN basis, even though Nepal is not a member of the GATT. No cases of hardship to Nepalese citizens in India have come to Government's notice. However, Government have with regret learnt of instances of harassment of Indian nationals in Nepal. These are being looked into.

(b) Government have invited His Majesty's Government of Nepal to negotiate a unified treaty on trade and transit.

Causes attributed to the accident of Island Express

1869. SHRI KAMAL MORARKA:
SHRI YASHWANT SINHA:
SHRI E. BALANANDAN:
SHRI ARANGIL SREEDHARAN:
SHRI M. A. BABY :

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are aware that public in Kerala are very much dissatisfied and agitated with the reasons attributed to the major rail accident to the Island Express which took place on July 8th, 1988 at the Perumon Bridge, Kerala ; and

(b) whether Government is seriously taking note of this discontentment and great dismay being felt by the public of Kerala and propose to take urgent steps to conduct a judicial enquiry, a comprehensive one, to go into the real cause of this tragic accident, completely ignoring the 'Tornado' theory being adopted by the Railways ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Government do not propose to hold a judicial inquiry. An inquiry by the Commissioner of Railway Safety who is under the Ministry of Civil Aviation and Tourism has already been conducted. The Government is examining the report. However, takinginto account the nature of the accident, a Committee of experts will also examine the report and the Government will also obtain advice of the National Transportation Safety Board before taking a final view on the report.